

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 /101 W
-----004569 300630Z /13

R 291445Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2336
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 5090

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, PINS, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT BANS ALL
PRESS MENTION OF PATRIOTIC FRONT

1. ACCORDING TO SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REPORTS, THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT ON AUGUST 28 PROHIBITED ALL MENTION BY RHODESIAN MEDIA OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS, THEIR LEADERS AND SPOKESMEN. THE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH MAY NOT BE MENTIONED ARE THE PF, THE PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT, ANC (ZIMBABWE), ZAPU, ZANU (MUGABE), ZANLA, AND ZIPRA. ONE ACCOUNT SAID MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE WERE BEHIND THE SERVING OF THE "D" NOTICES WITHOUT PRIME MINISTER SMITH FULLY IN THE PICTURE. ACCORDING TO THAT ACCOUNT, THE MOVE CAME AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO THE RHODESIAN MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND TO THE SPECIAL BRANCH.

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2. THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS COMMENTARY IMPLIED THAT THE GAG RESULTED FROM THE CONCERN THAT MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE HAVE FELT ABOUT THE SUPPORT THEY ARE LOSING TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. THE ARTICLE CITES THE "ALMOST DAILY LIST OF RESIGNATIONS" FROM MUZOREWA'S UANC PARTY AS A PROTEST AGAINST HIS INEPT LEADERSHIP. ALSO OFFERED AS EVIDENCE ARE THE INCREASING NUMBER OF

INSTANCES WHERE SITHOLE SPOKESMEN HAVE CONDUCTED RALLIES
WITH ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.

3. COMMENT: THIS PROHIBITION ON MENTION OF THE PF IS
A RESURRECTION OF A RESTRICTION THAT WAS IN EFFECT UNTIL EARLIER
THIS YEAR. DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING UP TO THE
MARCH 3 SETTLEMENT, BOTH SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA ADAMANTLY
ARGUED FOR A DROPPING OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE PF, ZANU
AND ZAPU. THIS WAS FINALLY DONE ON APRIL 18 (CAPE
TOWN 776). WHETHER OR NOT SMITH WAS FULLY APPRISED,
THIS REVERSION TO SUCH RESTRICTIONS COULD REFLECT A
GROWING CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE INTERNAL PARTIES
THAT THE PF, AND PROBABLY MORE PARTICULARLY NKOMO,
ARE INDEED GAINING IN POPULAR SUPPORT.
EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, CENSORSHIP
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780813/aaaaakks.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2bdaf759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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SAS ID: 1590168
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT BANS ALL PRESS MENTION OF PATRIOTIC FRONT
TAGS: PDEV, PINS, SOPN, RH
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